

Fitting hearing aids in children in São Tomé e Príncipe - evolution

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Abstract

Hearing has an important impact in cognition and in relationships between people.

In São Tomé e Príncipe, since February 2011, we started an audiological screening integrated in a program called “Saúde para todos – especialidades” from an Non-Governmental Organisation - Instituto Marquês de Valle Flor.

Hearing assessment was made for periods of one week, three or four times per year. We concluded that there was about 60% of neurosensorial hearing loss.

This hearing loss dictates an important impact in the child's psychomotor development leading to the isolation of the child and the impoverishment of social skills.

Since February 2012, we are implementing hearing aids in children with neurosensorial hearing loss and language disorders. Currently, we are reevaluating these children and our results show a positive evolution in children's social integration.

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